

MONEY & LOANS

Want a flexible, affordable loan?



Borrow from £5,000 to £100,000 for any purpose.* For example, borrow £10,000 for less than £100 a month over 180 months. Total Amount Payable (TAP) £17,343, at typical 8.4% APR variable.

- Our friendly, helpful staff will find the right loan for you
- Choose a repayment period from 5 to 25 years, with monthly repayments to suit your budget
- Complete peace of mind – there are no set-up fees and you can protect your repayments with our Payment Protection Plan
- Phone today – we could approve your loan in minutes*

Rates from
7.4%APR variable
to 10.7%APR
variable

Typical
8.4%APR
variable

8.4%APR

Monthly repayments
below are based on typical
variable, without Payment Protection.

Amount of loan	180 months		300 months	
	Monthly	TAP†	Monthly	TAP†
£10,000	£96.35	£17,343	£78.08	£23,425
£30,000	£289.06	£52,030	£234.25	£70,276
£50,000	£481.76	£86,717	£390.42	£117,127
£75,000	£722.64	£130,075	£585.64	£175,691

0800 013 1716‡

Monday–Friday 8am–9pm. Weekends 8am–8pm.

Quoting reference 30142497 or visit us at
www.firstplus.co.uk

FIRSTPLUS

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

*FIRSTPLUS secured personal loans are not available for investment or business use.

**Loans are offered subject to status to homeowners aged 18 or over. Rates correct as of 01/11/05.

†Calls may be monitored or recorded and calls to 0800 numbers are free. A FIRSTPLUS loan is secured on your home. FIRSTPLUS Financial Group PLC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for general insurance business. FIRSTPLUS Financial Group PLC, The Avenue Business Park, Pentwyn, Cardiff CF23 8FF.

MM12007

BORROW NOW FOR CHRISTMAS No repayments for 6 months*

Take a loan out with us now and you won't have to make your first payment for 6 months*

FREEPHONE 0800 294 2377

• Borrow from £5,000 to £50,000

• Reduce your monthly outgoings by up to 55%

• Lines open from 8am to 8pm

• Since 1987 we have helped over 200,000 people

• Limited availability

8.9% APR typical variable

FISA
registered

DIAL
LOANS



We have access to a panel of lenders. This offer is only available through Paragon Personal Finance and is not available to applicants with a poor credit rating. Payments are deferred for a period of 6 months but interest is not deferred and is accrued from the day the loan commences.

Paragon Personal Finance Ltd, 1000 London Road, Bradford BD1 2LQ. Monthly payments of zero followed by 115 monthly payments of £198.83. Total repayable £22,865.45 (8.9% APR typical). Other lenders available & loan plans up to £100,000 also available. On some plans a fee of up to 10% of the amount borrowed may be payable.

Registered in Guernsey number 37613. Registered Office: 1 Le Merchant Street, St Peter Port, GY1 4HP. Debubble Loans is a trading style of Central Capital Limited. Telephone calls may be recorded.

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING OTHER DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

**Need car credit?
say YES to a fairer deal**
even if you've been refused elsewhere*

0800 085 3816
24 hours • 7 days • yescarcredit.net

19.9% APR typical

Yes Car Credit is a trading title of Direct Auto Finance Ltd, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2RG. Credit subject to status. Calls may be recorded and used for training purposes. Calls may be recorded and used for training purposes.

19.9% APR

APPROVED
CAR FINANCE

Car Finance whatever your needs

✓ £30 Argos voucher
– Just for coming to see us!*

✓ £1,000 Minimum Part Exchange*

✓ £250 Cashback*

✓ 136 point vehicle inspection on all cars

If you're looking for a newer car – call us FREE today

0800 656 9029†

Apply online at www.adcf.co.uk or text "CAR" to 82540 (STD rate) and we'll call you back

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!
Specialists in remortgaging to High Street Lenders

Is your mortgage or loan with one of these lenders?

FIRST AID	First National	Blemain	iGroup
Kensington	B M Solutions	Amber	Future
Welcome	London MC	SPML	SPML
Platform	Preferred	Swift	Swift
	Rooftop	Citi	Citi

If so there is a good chance you are paying too much! We like to say yes to >>>

Turned down elsewhere No proof or income Employed/Self-employed
Reduce repayments Raise money/take on Clear outstanding debts
Ex & Current Bankrupts Stop repossession Arrears/CCJ Defaults

Overall cost for Key Mortgage Services comparison
FREPHONE
CALL 24HRS 7 DAYS 0800 195829

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. FSA REGULATED TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME

CASH LOANS
UP TO **£500**

PROVIDENT
Personal Credit

CALL 0800 138 2347
www.provident.co.uk

Provident Personal Credit, Colmoregate, Sandridge Road, Bradford BD1 2LQ. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Calls may be recorded.

FAST UNSECURED LOANS

£500 - £25,000 REPAY OVER 1-7 YEARS

Examples of some of our current plans

AMOUNT TERM REPAYMENT APR

£25,000 5 years £401,560 8.3% £33,739.44

£12,500 6 years £226,000 8.3% £16,276.32

£10,000 4 years £214,400 10.3% £12,864.00

£5,000 3 years £132,120 12.5% £642.72

£500 3 years £23,38 44.5% £811.68

NO ADVANCE OR APPLICATION FEE PAYABLE

CALL FREE ANYTIME 24/7

0800 929 925

...OR APPLY ONLINE

www.LastEverLoan.com

Greenwood Personal Credit, Colmoregate, Sandridge Road, Bradford BD1 2LQ. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Calls may be recorded.

CHEQUEBOOK LOANS
INSTANT DECISION

0808 178 0773

chequebookloans.co.uk

LOANS Same Day Payout Possible
No Fees 15.2% APR

0800 043 6901

freephoneloans.com

PERSONAL LOANS

We like to say YES!
0845 344 3439 www.yesloans.tv

purple loans

part of GE Money

Call the Purple People now!

0800 528 0862

Lines open Monday–Friday 9am–9pm

& Weekends 9am–5pm

www.purpleloans.com



Cash for Christmas
BORROW UP TO £500

Affordable repayments

Simple, straightforward application

Friendly agent calls regularly

For YOUR CASH call free now

0800 068 3758

Lines open 8am–8pm Mon–Fri & 8am–5pm Sat

www.provident.co.uk

PROVIDENT
Personal Credit

Provident Personal Credit, Colmoregate, Sandridge Road, Bradford BD1 2LQ. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Calls may be recorded.

DEBT HELP!

"Been refused a loan to consolidate your debts?"

CALL NOW for one affordable monthly repayment.

Refused a Loan?

£200 to £15,000

Apply today, no matter what your credit status? Any Purpose Loans, CCJ's, Defaults, Arrears? No Problem! Be Accepted!

Call Advantage today

01202 629851

Typical APR 15.2%

Refused a Loan?

£200 to £15,000

Apply today, no matter what your credit history

BE ACCEPTED - CALL TODAY

0870 458 1268

Typical APR 15.2% Lines Open 9-7

CAN'T GET A LOAN? BLACKLISTED?

Call us **PAST LOANS** for FAST DECISIONS & FAST PAYOUTS

No matter what your credit history

BE ACCEPTED - CALL TODAY

0870 458 1268

Typical APR 15.2% Lines Open 9-7

Charles Price Ltd

PAY OFF ALL YOUR DEBTS QUICK LOANS NO FEES

£500-£75,000 Tenants/Homewmers Bad Credit History

0870 042 6412

Typical APR 15.5% Line Open 9-7

UNSECURED LOANS

£500 to £15,000 AVAILABLE NOW

✓ Refused elsewhere ✓ CCJ's/Defaults ✓ Poor credit rating

Tenants and homeowners welcome to apply

Typical APR 15.2%

Call **0800 298 7177**

(9am to 9pm) Wentworth Direct Finance

Typical loan £5,000 borrowed over 40 mths = £119.48 per month Total repayment £7186.51 written details available. 0 to 2% brokers fee applies. Wrotham Road, Gravesend, Kent.

Sick of debt ...and sinking fast?

If you have unsecured debts of more than £10,000 and you can afford to pay £200 per month we CAN help.

Let us show you how to get rid of debt completely, have more money to spend and how to change your life for the better.

08000 850 758 **money.talk**

Being formed in 1993, FISA is well known

for its strict standards in the finance industry.

It members support families and the market place, providing a range of services to help customers manage their money better.

Individuals can benefit from the advice and information provided below:

• Credit Cards

• Mortgages

• Personal Loans

• Business Finance

• Investment

• Insurance

• Financial Planning

• Tax Planning

• Estate Planning

• Retirement Planning

• Business Finance

It's the business

'The silliest woman can manage a clever man; but it needs a very clever woman to manage a fool' – Rudyard Kipling

Movers & groovers

Ryanair will today carry out its threat to slash services between Stansted and Newquay in protest at Cornwall County Council's £5 surcharge to pay for airport expansion.

It is withdrawing some 12 flights a week, down to 16, which it claims will mean the loss of around 100,000 passengers a year.

Airline deputy chief Michael Cawley said: "Taxing tourists is not the way to promote visitors to come to Cornwall, particularly during the difficult winter months."

THE Safeway supermarket banner will disappear from Britain today as Morrisons completes its store conversion programme.

It has converted 219 Safeway shops, taking the Morrisons estate to over 360. But with five profits warnings since he bought Safeway last year, the success of Sir Ken Morrison's deal remains debatable.

PHILIP Graf, former chief executive of newspaper publisher Trinity Mirror, has turned gamekeeper by becoming the deputy chairman at media regulator Ofcom.

Graf, who left Trinity three years ago to be replaced by Sir Bailey, has filled his time reviewing the BBC's online activities.

ENGINEERING firm GKN says Ian Griffiths, head of its automotive division, will leave in January.

His new job is under wraps but GKN said he had taken on the post of managing director of "a major UK based business".

THE DEALER

HOT GOSSIP

COOKSON'S market revival gathered momentum on renewed talk of a takeover. The industrial materials company's shares firmed 15.25p to 380.25p on rumours that a predator was mulling a 500p-a-share approach. Cookson has seen its market value rise 20% over the past month.

Rental market still strong

SPECULATORS have deserted the buy-to-let market leaving it to professional landlords and serious investors, says specialist mortgage lender **Paragon**.

The past year had seen fewer buyers hoping to "make a quick turn" in the market, said chief executive Nigel Terrington.

While the general mortgage

market had seen a mixed picture following interest rate rises, the buy-to-let market had seen sustained demand, he said.

"Our landlords remain optimistic. There is an increase in tenant demand and prospects of lower interest rates," said Terrington.

The group saw the value of

its buy-to-let portfolio rise from £4 billion to £5bn in the year to the end of September.

But it suffered weaker demand for consumer finance as car loans and store credit were hit by higher interest rates.

Annual pre-tax profits rose from £71 million to £76.8m.

FAIR SHARES

UK blue chip gains were overshadowed by medium-sized firms as bid rumours swirled around **EMI** and **Cookson**. The FTSE 250 climbed 58.8 points to 8304.6 while the FTSE 100 rose 5.1 to 5522.7, a four-year high which helped boost the performance of major insurance companies.

Rush for Xbox

CURRYS WARNS OF XMAS SHORTAGES

MICROSOFT'S new **XBox 360**, Apple's **iPod** and the Sony **PSP** console will be in short supply this Christmas, the firm behind Currys warned last night.

DSG International warned of huge demand for the gadgets, expected to be this year's must-haves.

But the Dixons and Currys electrical goods retailer said it expected to hammer its competitors in what will be a tough Christmas.

Chief exec John Clare said the group's stores, which also operate under the PC World and The Link banners, were well-prepared for the crucial festive period, with strong ranges and good deals.

"We have held our own or better in our markets and I see no reason we shouldn't be able to do that over Christmas," he boasted.

Bargains

Shoppers should find plenty of bargains as deflation in the electrical goods market continues.

Computers are about 16% cheaper than last year while the cost of Sat Nav gear has tumbled.

DSG, which is Britain's biggest electrical goods retailer, makes 40% of its sales and 60% of its profits over the eight-week Christmas trading period.

It reported a further fall in sales at Currys, Dixons, PC World and The Link yesterday as the slowdown on the high street took its toll.

Clare said while there had been no significant deterioration in UK trad-

ing there was "no clear indication yet of any recovery" in its markets.

A strong performance from DSG's international stores pushed group sales up 4% in the first half.

But Currys has been hit by a downturn in fridges, ovens and washing machines sales.

Consumers have been cutting back on buying major appliances to fund higher mortgage, utility and petrol bills.

Sales at Dixons slipped 2% as strong demand for flat screen TVs and MP3 players was offset by a tough time for older technology markets such as personal stereos.

The weakest area in Dixons' UK business was The Link, where same-store sales crashed 28% amid competition in the mobile phone sector.

O2's takeover by Spain's **Telefónica** has heightened speculation DSG will sell its stake.

news.dailystar.co.uk

Higher prices get Drax fired-up

EUROPE'S largest coal-fired power station, **Drax**, will take advantage of Britain's soaring power prices with a £1.7 billion flotation next month.

The company, whose plant generates 7% of Britain's electricity needs, opted for a flotation yesterday after rejecting a bid approach from a US consortium.

Its market value will put it firmly in the FTSE 250 and allow its management and staff to share a £136m share windfall.

Cheap

Rescued from financial collapse by its creditors only three years ago, Drax is now benefiting from the scarcity of North Sea oil and gas, which has made retail energy prices higher.

This has meant coal, once out of favour as expensive and polluting, is now relatively cheap.

However, analysts warn its profits would be severely dented by any future fall in the price of oil and gas.

Analysts at **Morgan Stanley** predict that if the oil price remains around \$60 a barrel, Drax would be worth £4.15bn but if it drops to \$35 the value would be only £1.14bn.



Cafe deal is Paramount

THE growth of the "grab and go" lunching culture is one reason why the **Restaurant Group** decided to sell its Caffe Uno pizza and pasta chain in a £33million deal.

Managing director Andrew Page said the lack of people sitting down to lunch in favour of a sarnie had sparked the sale to Chez Gerard and Bertorelli owner **Paramount** yesterday. He explained: "It

was very difficult to see where long-term growth was going to be generated."

Paramount's chief executive Nick Basing said the deal would transform his group by more than doubling its size to 77 restaurants.

He said: "It takes us out of our traditional heartland in London and the South East."

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 14.50 point (0.26%) at 5531.70

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	▼	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	▼	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	▼						
3i Grp.	867	+20	868	858	1470	Centrica	237	-1	264	217	1818	Land Secs	1598	+20	1599	1235	1035	Ryf Dutch Shell 'A'	1846xd	-3	1875	1644	6690
AB Food.	840	+10	842	826	1082	Compass Group	204	-1	264	175	7663	Legal&Gen.	114	-1	119	102	1036	Ryf Dutch Shell 'B'	1939xd	+18	1909	1727	6691
Alliance Unilever	574	+10	575	572	6022	Diall	657	+1	764	617	3973	SAB	1002	+102	887	7649	7649	Unilever	2334	+18	2374	2211	6601
AMVESCAP	392	+4	429	299	1124	Diageo	849	+4	882	721	4763	Lloyds Tsb Grp	1012	+1	1015	974	974	Sainsbury's	2334	+18	2374	2211	6601
Anglo	1851	+19	1852	130	4949	Ent.lms	883	+6	889	637	4713	Marks & Sp.	455xd	+2	458	319	1039	Schroders	904	+6	947	675	1415
Antofagasta	1650	-24	1701	1052	3438	Exel	1221	+1	1235	711	1366	National Grid	552	+5	561	474	474	Scot.&Newcast.	480	+3	492	421	1421
Armenitec	2600	+40	2707	2207	3151	Friends Prov.	189xd	+1	191	146	7733	Network Rail	1603	+1	161	1269	1269	Tesco	312xd	+18	316	281	6602
Aviva	708	+9	709	573	3388	Galleria Grp.	904	+5	907	857	571	Ntnh.Rock	836	+2	836	805	805	Vodafone	536xd	+2	537	509	6602
BAA Sys.	639xd	+1	641	571	7389	Galaxy Smithline	916xd	+11	917	1010	911	NTL	1024	-2	1029	114	2105	Seven	1027	+7	1058	888	4015
Barclays	614	+7	614	519	1004	Hammerson	98	+2	99	780	226	Old Mutual	150xd	+3	151	151	2782	Shire Pharmet.	725	+5	759	5200	5200
BHP Bill.	598	-3	596	564	2423	Hanson	594	-5	609	409	1030	Partycity	105	-1	117	71	839	Smith&Nephew	506	+1	558	451	1434
BOC Grp.	1148	+7	1173	917	1008	Holiday Inn	540	+6	547	504	7663	Post Office	1009	+1	1010	994	994	Spencer Plc	1027	+7	1058	888	4015
Boots Group	610	+10	616	582	833	Holiday Group	244xd	+1	256	257	1942	Prudential	534	+4	542	414	7481	Stamps Group	976	+5	978	764	1437
Bt	657xd	-6	662	583	1009	Holiday Hgts	946xd	-3	949	829	5562	Reckitt Benck.	1820	-4	1837	1513	1046	Stand Char.	1286	+2	1294	924	4887
Bt Airways	310	+1	320	218	6258	Imp.Chem.	327	+2	330	229	1032	Red Elsiver	509	-3	553	461	1396	Stamps & Lyle	954	+5	954	844	6602
Bt Amer.Tob.	1304	-3	1320	857	1003	Imp.Tobacco Grp.	1714	+6	1719	1338	1271	Reinforced Hdt.	161	+1	178	124	124	Tesco	312xd	+2	335	294	1056
Br Land	1026	+9	1044	780	1128	ITV	244	+3	252	150	6025	REXAM	1044	+4	1048	1047	1047	Unilever	564xd	+7	602	479	5983
Bskyb	497	-5	506	491	3382	Kellogg	109xd	-2	130	101	2145	Rio Tinto	2384	+23	2414	1430	6699	Vodafone Grp.	126xd	+5	155	125	3577
Bt	210	+4	214	197	2018	Kellogg	743	-3	758	539	4018	Rolls-Royce	387c	+9	388	236	6441	Whitbread	948xd	+2	1125	828	1498
Cable & Wireless	120	+2	124	107	1015	Kingsfisher	226	+2	316	201	5908	Royal Bank Scd.	165	+1	183	1522	1522	Woolworths	123xd	+29	1240	877	3288
Cadbury-Sch.	558	-2	594	459	1016							WPP Grp.	562	-2	625	554	5283	Xstrata	1363	-7	1490	869	3421
Cairn Energy	1898	-27	2016	1042	3643							Yell Grp.	495xd	+6	510	392	1026	Yello	495xd	+6	510	392	1026
Capita Group	392	+2	394	345	5263																		
Carnival	3230xd	+25	3241	263	2568																		

Source: www.DigitalLook.com

For real-time share prices and our share dealing service. Dial 0905 062 0973 and listen to the instructions. Calls are charged at 60p per minute from a BT landline. For more details call our helpline on 0871 434 1519.

AUSSIES WAVER OVER LSE PRICE

THE Takeover Panel has told an Aussie bank to put up or shut up if it is going to bid for the **London Stock Exchange**.

Macquarie Bank has until December 15 to make a bid but it has hinted it is too expensive, being valued at £1.5bn.

Shares in the LSE fell by 9p, to 595p, as the wrangle continued.

Bid speculation has sent the LSE share price soaring by 74% since last October.

The remaining bidder is the European exchange operator **Euronext**.

It is in the process of talking to its own shareholders about a possible bid.

speculation since that time and its impact on the LSE's share price has made any assessment of the fundamental value of the LSE increasingly challenging."

It added: "Macquarie takes a disciplined view on valuation."

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DAILY STAR Mobiles

Our consumer guide to the latest mobile phones in the market place

AS mobile sales continue to hot up for Christmas, it seems that cameras are a top priority for many shoppers, according to a new survey.

Internet data firm Hitwise has just produced a report highlighting which mobile handsets are proving most popular with consumers.

Up to a third of all new phone purchases are made in the run-up to Christmas, and mobile operators are busy ramping up activity during this critical sales period.

The most popular models include the Samsung D600, Motorola V3 and Nokia 8800. While all three models have integrated MP3 music players, they are essentially camera phones. The Samsung D600 has a 2-megapixel camera plus powerful 4x digital zoom

that can take print-quality images; the super slim V3 has a high quality integrated VGA camera, also with 4x digital zoom; and the Nokia 8800 features an integrated 0.5 megapixel camera and good quality video recorder.

Other handsets being snapped up by the Christmas shoppers include the Sony Ericsson W550i, the latest music phone in the manufacturer's Walkman range, which comes with a 1.3-megapixel camera, and the Motorola ROKR E1, which has an iTunes interface that makes downloading and playing music tracks a breeze.

Fans of I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! can get involved in the action by downloading a new mobile phone game based on the hit show.

The game is based on the famous

Bushtucker Trials, in which the celebs do battle with all kinds of jungle creepy crawlies in order to win food.

Developed by mobile entertainment distributor Player X, the game is available for the two weeks that the show is on air and can be downloaded from network operators Orange, O2 and T-Mobile.

Meanwhile food fans can now access Jamie Oliver on their mobiles, via Vodafone Live! With 3G by downloading film clips of the TV chef making over 100 of his top recipes.

You can search for your own recipe, and with downloadable picture messages showing a list of ingredients, there's no need to write out a shopping list.

Whether you're waiting for the bus or trailing around the supermarket

wondering what to cook for dinner, help will always be on hand.

Mobile Express is currently offering the Sony Ericsson W550i free on T-Mobile with 200 any time any network minutes and 100 texts per month. The monthly line rental of £33 per month has been reduced to half price line rental for 18 months by redemption, on an 18-month contract, making a saving of £297.00.

For more information call

0800 096 9765

or visit

www.mobileexpress.co.uk



Sony Ericsson W550i

UP TO half price FOR LIFE LINE RENTAL

NEW cashback deals

EXPRESS DEAL OF THE DAY

FREE SONY ERICSSON W550i

QUOTE REF: 24L05AB

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

YOU SAVE £322

FREE ACCESSORIES

Hot Handsets - top sellers

1. Samsung D600
2. Sony Ericsson W550i
3. Nokia N70

AMAZING NEW DEALS!

T

FREE MOTOROLA V3
REF: 24L05AC

FREE SONY ERICSSON K750i
REF: 24L05AD

FREE SAMSUNG E530
REF: 24L05AE

FREE SAMSUNG D600
REF: 24L05AF

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

SAVE £322

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

SAVE £347

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

SAVE £297

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

SAVE £280.08

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

SAVE £260.10

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

SAVE £280.10

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
normally £33 per mth

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normally £33 per mth

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1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK*

by redemption £16.50 per mth
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TRUCKING INDUSTRY STEPS UP A GEAR

TRUCKING is fast becoming an attractive career option for many. Gone are the days of exhausted and under-paid drivers confined to their cabins for hours on end without a break. Instead, new legislation has helped haul the industry into the 21st century giving it a make-over that even Trinny and Susannah would find hard to top.

Andrew Horner, chairperson of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's (REC) Drivers Sector Group, which is made up of over 200 recruiters that specialise in this area, explains how improved industry standards and legislation

such as the Working Time Directive has helped foster such a change. He says, "limiting the working week to 48 hours over a 17 week period means drivers can achieve the work-life balance they deserve."

Although the Working Time Directive has created substantial extra administration for employers, positive effects have also resulted including regulated employee breaks. Truckers can now enjoy half an hour's break when working 6.9 hours and 45 minutes for 9 hours or more. Andrew Horner continues, "Not only are the breaks regulated but the directive also makes sure that truckers get at least one rest day a week and four weeks holiday a

year. However, it is crucial for workers to ensure that they are working with employers or agencies who understand and apply these regulations."

Due to greater regularity of hours and the guarantee of four weeks holiday, there is nothing to stop women combining a rewarding career in trucking with their family commitments. Horner says, "If you thought driving wasn't for you because you didn't fit the traditional stereotype of a trucker think again – you could be just what the profession is looking for and with industry standards on the rise, now is the time to take advantage."

Tom Hadley, director of external

affairs at the REC adds, "UK business is waking up to the advantages that a truly diverse workforce can bring, and the recruitment industry is keen to play a key role in helping to deliver real change to UK workplaces, particularly in sectors such as driving."

If you are considering a career in trucking, it is crucial that you work with a reputable recruitment agency. Make sure your health and safety needs are given priority by

logging on to the REC website <http://www.rec.co.uk/rec/sectorgroups/drivers/aspc>



For further information visit

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VEE IS FOR VICTORY

GEE VEE (10.05) may have a bit to find on the heat clock with Special Deal for tonight's Totesport Puppy Stakes at Walthamstow, but that differential is by no means to the extent that the odds reflect and he should be backed at the 5-1 chalked up by Bet365 and Coral.

It is one up to the punters so far in this year's Racing Post Festival with Abbot Pete landing the first final - the Goodwood Cup - at the weekend and it is the rapidly improving Special Deal, allegedly sold for between £15k and £20k last week, that will go to traps a warm order for this 47pm decider.

His chance is obvious as he has simply been burning the Stow sand up in recent weeks, but this is the biggest ask of his career so far and another speedy exit - he produced a PB split in

■ by JIM AUSTIN of the RACING POST

the heats - will be required. There is no doubt that he is the most likely winner, but how can Gee Vee be 5-1? Dave Mullins' dog was every bit as impressive as Special Deal to the eye in the latter's near-two-length advantage, that could count for very little should Droopys Clarke do an immediate left turn on leaving the traps and cut across the favourite.

Gee Vee, a confirmed middle runner, is perfectly boxed in four and will keep as straight as a die on the dash to the turn. He can be erratic at the gates, but has trapped okay on his last two Stow visits and will hopefully do likewise now the chips are down.

Betting (Totesport): 5-4 Special Deal, 7-2 Droopys Clarke, Gee Vee, 4-2 Hurricane, 10 Driving Up West, 12 Maxie Magpie.

The meeting, which is televised live on Channel 425, also features the heats of the Carlisle Brass British Bred Stakes (475m) and the Racing Post Festival Stayers (640m).

Not surprisingly, the staying competition has produced a terrific entry and will certainly take plenty of winning.

Dark Star Henry (6.48), third in the Grand Prix final over C&D 54 days ago, is as gutsy as they come and, while vulnerable to something flashing off in front, he is boxed clever and looks the percentage call for heat one.

BROUGH TIPS

7.35 CLUNE TEDDY (3)	Great Attempt (4)
7.51 CANNI MIRAGE (4)	Fabulous Satin (6)
8.06 FITZROY BLACK (nap) (5)	Granary Dauphin (1)
8.21 SHARNS ROSE (no)	Chivalry (5)
8.36 PONNI NURVEY (5)	Burgoyne Sandy (6)
8.52 IVESTON MINX (no)	Geordie Magic (5)
9.08 KATB (1)	Frontier Friend (3)
9.23 SALTEE HAWK (3)	Captain Zippy (6)
9.38 CATUNDA BARBIE (1)	Meadowvale Game (6)
9.53 BACKPACK (6)	Iveston Kewell (5)
10.08 BLACK DOUGLAS (4)	Newlawn Timmy (1)
10.24 HOT AND STEAMY (6)	Hibs Seven (3)

WALTHAMSTOW TONIGHT

7.45	Brent (d) (A9)	475m	9.14	Big Boys (c)	(Open)	640m
2	Sizzler (f) (no)	28.90	1.541	Bad Legend (e)	(1)	39.61
2	Droopy's (f) (no)	28.90	1.555	Black Devil (c)	(1)	39.79
2	Bramine Naos (e) (no)	30.09	3.441	Alchemist Reward (md)	(no)	38.77
4	DROOPYS FEDERER (md) (no)	29.76	4.136	DROMOBIN JET (md)	(ep)	39.72
4	DRAGSTER (f) (no)	29.76	5.137	Black Pearl (ep)	(no)	39.72
6	Podgal Free (no)	29.76	6.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	0.00
Star betting: 5-2 Podgal Finn, 11-4 Drooys Fins, 3 Pigals Flash, 4 Hestey Naos, Rapin			Star betting: 5-2 Dr. Dromobin Legend, 3 Black Pearl, 4 Dromobin Sporty, 7-2 Dr. Dromobin, 11-2 Bege Dogs			
Star betting: 5-2 (P7)			Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
FIERCE EXCITE (6)	All Stars (2)	475m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
8.11	(S1)	640m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
1	Falcon Flight (no)	39.96	1.654	Jiving Caribbean (sa (w))	(w)	29.06
2	Crangales Glory (sw)	40.17	1.562	Kilnough Glen (sa (w))	(w)	29.06
2	4411 (f) (no)	40.17	3.414	Coronetic (no)	(w)	29.06
4	DROOPYS FIGHT (md) (no)	39.80	5.115	DRIVING UP (wd)	(w)	29.94
4	DRAGSTER (f) (no)	39.80	6.242	Elbow Biter (no)	(w)	29.94
6	Podgal Free (no)	39.80	7.251	Kids Special (wd)	(w)	29.01
Star betting: 5-2 Falcon Flight, Dropys Stic, 9.2			Star betting: 5-2 (Zigzag Dutchy, 5 Rocktime Era, 8 Kicks Off, 9.2 Optimistic, 10.2 In Scoopy)			
8.28	(P7)	475m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
8.28	(P7)	475m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
2	Speed DATER (f) (no)	28.34	1.552	Rathbone Eric (sa (w))	(w)	29.99
2	Tan (era (no)	29.30	2.452	Scorpion McShane (md) (ep)	(ep)	28.60
2	Woolly Choc (no)	29.44	3.441	Stingray (no)	(no)	29.91
5	1101 (no)	29.44	4.224	Border Star (no)	(no)	29.97
5	1103 (no)	29.44	6.444	Dark Hunter (md)	(no)	29.01
5	2510 (no)	29.44	7.251	Kids Special (wd)	(w)	29.01
5	Aghawen (no)	29.84	8.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.21
5	Podgal Hahn (no)	29.84	9.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.21
Star betting: 5-2 Falcon Flight, Dropys Stic, 9.2			Star betting: 5-2 (Zigzag Dutchy, 5 Rocktime Era, 8 Kicks Off, 9.2 Optimistic, 10.2 In Scoopy)			
8.36	(P7)	475m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
2	Speed DATER (f) (no)	28.34	1.552	Rathbone Eric (sa (w))	(w)	29.99
2	Podgal (no)	28.34	2.452	Scorpion McShane (md) (ep)	(ep)	28.60
2	Speed DATER (f) (no)	28.34	3.441	Stingray (no)	(no)	29.91
2	Border Star (no)	28.34	4.224	Border Star (no)	(no)	29.97
2	Woolly Choc (no)	28.34	6.444	Dark Hunter (md)	(no)	29.01
5	1101 (no)	28.34	7.251	Kids Special (wd)	(w)	29.01
5	1103 (no)	28.34	8.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.21
5	2510 (no)	28.34	9.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.21
5	Aghawen (no)	28.34	10.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.21
5	Podgal Hahn (no)	28.34	11.213	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.21
Star betting: 5-2 Falcon Flight, Dropys Stic, 9.2			Star betting: 5-2 (Zigzag Dutchy, 5 Rocktime Era, 8 Kicks Off, 9.2 Optimistic, 10.2 In Scoopy)			
8.48	(P7)	475m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
2	DARK STAR (f) (no)	39.57	1.112	Maxine (no)	(no)	29.12
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	2.122	Choc (no)	(no)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	3.222	Monkey (no)	(no)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	4.322	Mano (no)	(no)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	5.422	Dark Hunter (md)	(no)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	6.522	Thunder Seal (wd)	(w)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	7.622	Kids Special (wd)	(w)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	8.722	Rocktime Era (no)	(no)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	9.822	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	10.922	Top Gun (no)	(no)	29.02
Star betting: 5-2 Lady Aishing, 3 Ronnes Fly, 4 Dark Hunter, 5 Zippag Dutchy, 6 Tino Spark, 7 Dark Star, 8 Maxine (no)			Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
8.48	(P7)	475m	Star betting: 5-2 (Open)			
2	DARK STAR (f) (no)	39.57	1.112	Maxine (no)	(no)	29.12
2	Stevie (no)	39.57	2.122	Choc (no)	(no)	29.02
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2	Stevie (no)	39.57	6.522	Thunder Seal (wd)	(w)	29.02
2	Stevie (no)	39.57				

STAR RACING



CLASS ACT: Bewleys Berry makes a winning return at Wetherby while (inset) Lan-kawi (right) outpoints Dafara-bad

YOU BEW-TY

BEWLEYS BERRY created a big impression with a resounding victory on his debut over fences in the Harry Atkinson Memorial Beginners' Chase at Wetherby.

Howard Johnson's imposing chestnut was one of last season's top staying novice hurdlers and he made a successful transition to chasing with a foot-perfect display.

Graham Lee allowed the 4-7 favourite stride on at the fourth fence and, jumping like an old hand, he was never seriously threatened - apart from briefly by a loose horse - to come home 12 lengths ahead of the runner-up, Briery Fox.

Bookmakers' VC Bet were suitably impressed and slashed his odds for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival into 10-1 from 16-1.

Engine

Owner Graham Wylie was delighted with the performance.

He said: "That was a very good start.

"Graham said he was a bit worried by the loose horse, apart from that he said he was never off the bridle and the horse has a big engine. He said the horse loves his jumping."

"After falling at Cheltenham and being pulled up at Aintree that will be a nice confidence booster for him."

"I don't know where he'll go next but I'm sure Howard will have it planned."

J P McNamara switched from Lingfield's abandoned meeting and the move paid off when he landed a 1,065-1 double on Whispered Promises and She's The Lady for Alescester-based permit holder Roger Brookhouse.

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes reported that Redemption and Kandjar D'Allier were the big market movers yesterday for

■ by PETER THICKETT

Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury.

Redemption is 16s from 25-1 and Kandjar D'Allier 14-1 from 20s. Totesport have also cut both horses with Redemption on 20-1 from 25s.

Carl Llewellyn is hoping a clean round of jumping can see Redemption go close.

Nigel Twiston-Davies' 10-year-old hasn't won since January 2004 but was travelling well towards the head affairs when falling two fences from home in the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham two weeks ago.

"He would have had a good chance barring accidents," said Llewellyn.

Reflecting on the Paddy Power, he continued: "I think he was going very well until he fell and he would have had a good chance of winning."

"He won impressively in a decent race a few years ago and that was the last time he won in fact, so hopefully he will remember."

Sneak

Redemption's last win over fences came in a competitive handicap on Hennessy day at Newbury two years ago, and his lack of winning form has allowed him to sneak into the handicap for this weekend's Grade Three event on 10st 2lb.r.

The jockey added: "Trabalgan is a worthy favourite but he is a short price. I think Comply Or Die and Kandjar D'Allier have got decent chances as well."

• Timely Murphy and Henrietta Knight will appear before a Jockey Club disciplinary panel today to appeal over the punishment they received regarding the running and riding of Harringay at Towcester earlier this month.

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

CHESTWOW

12-50 (2m 6f): 1, **ROUNDTHEBROOK** (R MODO - Tizzard 6-4 fav); 2, **Shamaway** (W Hutchinson 20-1); 3, **Glasker Mill** (S Thomas 2-1); 21, 3/21. 11 ran. C1. Tizzard, Shergrove.

Total: £1.20; pl: £1.02, £1.90, £3.40. exacta: £3.40. csc: £2.60. NR: Taking My Cut.

1.10 (2m 1f): 1, **REBOND THEREAL** (C Honour 5-1); 2, **Anampru** (C Llewellyn 4-1); 3, **Rojahaa** (P J Brennan 7-2 fav); Urban Dream 7-2 fav; 2/21, 111. 9 ran. J. Frost, Burton-on-Trent.

Total: £0.60; pl: £1.50, £2.00, £3.50. exacta: £3.40. csc: £2.60. NR: Taking My Cut.

2.10 (2m 1f): 1, **ROOKERY LAIR** (D Crosse 5-1); 2, **Astro Man** (N Feihly 9-4 fav); 3, **Reflex Blue** (A O'Keefe 14-1). 21, 1/41. 7 ran. C Kelleher, Burton-on-Trent.

Total: £0.20; pl: £1.90, £1.70, £0.70. exacta: £3.40. csc: £2.60. NR: Taking My Cut.

2.10 (2m 1f): 1, **SHARNDY WINE** (J Ennis 7-2 fav); 2, **Notaproblem** (W Kennedy 7-1); 3, **Lucky Judge** (D C Costello 10-1). Shd, 121. 12 ran. L Lungo, Carrutherford.

Total: £0.20; pl: £1.60, £2.00, £3.00. exacta: £2.60. csc: £27.33. tricast: £22.95. NR: Bedlum, Maraud.

12.55 (3m 1f): 1, **BEWLEYS BERRY** (G Lee 4-7 fav); 2, **Briery Fox** (M Phillips 9-4 fav); 3, **Hot Weld** (K Mercer 4-1). 121, 61. 9 ran. J Howard Johnson, Crook.

Total: £0.20; pl: £1.10, £1.30, £2.00. exacta: £3.20. csc: £4.55.

2.20 (2m 1f): 1, **LANKAWI** (B Harding 12-1); 2, **Dafara-bad** (A P McCoy 18-5 fav); 3, **Mahogany Blaze** (T Siddall 16-1). 1/21, 41. 13 ran. J. Kefford, Leyburn.

Total: £1.40; pl: £2.30, £1.40, £3.10. exacta: £3.30. csc: £2.60.

2.00 (2m 1f): 1, **POLAR GUNNER** (A Dobbin 7-1); 2, **Super Nomad** (Mr T Greenall 6-1); 3, **Argento** (F Keniry 6-1). Encore Cadoudal 4-1 fav. Nk, 121.

10 ran. C Jefferson, Matton.

Total: £7.50; pl: £2.90, £2.20, £2.30. exacta: £63.00. trifecta: £479.90. csc: £47.44. tricast: £62.49.

2.35 (2m): 1, **WHISPERED PROMISES** (J P McNamara 40-1); 2, **L'Antarique** (K Mercer 4-5 fav); 3, **The Duke's Speech** (J M Maguire 7-1). 61, 31. 23 ran. R Brookhouse, Alescester.

Total: £0.30; pl: £1.80, £3.00, £1.10. exacta: £3.60. csc: £23.29.

PLACEPOT: £52.40

WETHERBY

12.55 (2m 1f): 1, **ROUNDTHEBROOK** (R Walsh 1-5 fav); 2, **Welpies One** (C Llewellyn 12-1); 3, **Caveman** (T Doyle 2-1 fav); 4, **Leading Authority** (J Tizzard 2-1 fav); 5, 11. 9 ran. H Morrison, East Isley.

Total: £0.20; pl: £1.02, £1.90, £3.40. exacta: £3.40. csc: £2.60. NR: Taking My Cut.

1.10 (2m 1f): 1, **REBOND THEREAL** (C Honour 5-1); 2, **Anampru** (C Llewellyn 4-1); 3, **Rojahaa** (P J Brennan 7-2 fav); Urban Dream 7-2 fav; 2/21, 111. 9 ran. J. Frost, Burton-on-Trent.

Total: £0.60; pl: £1.50, £2.00, £3.50. exacta: £3.40. csc: £2.60.

2.10 (2m 1f): 1, **SHARNDY WINE** (J Ennis 7-2 fav); 2, **Notaproblem** (W Kennedy 7-1); 3, **Lucky Judge** (D C Costello 10-1). Shd, 121. 12 ran. L Lungo, Carrutherford.

Total: £0.20; pl: £1.60, £2.00, £3.00. exacta: £2.60. csc: £27.33. tricast: £22.95. NR: Bedlum, Maraud.

12.55 (3m 1f): 1, **BEWLEYS BERRY** (G Lee 4-7 fav); 2, **Briery Fox** (M Phillips 9-4 fav); 3, **Hot Weld** (K Mercer 4-1). 121, 61. 9 ran. J Howard Johnson, Crook.

Total: £0.20; pl: £1.10, £1.30, £2.00. exacta: £3.20. csc: £4.55.

2.20 (2m 1f): 1, **LANKAWI** (B Harding 12-1); 2, **Dafara-bad** (A P McCoy 18-5 fav); 3, **Mahogany Blaze** (T Siddall 16-1). 1/21, 41. 13 ran. J. Kefford, Leyburn.

Total: £1.40; pl: £2.30, £1.40, £3.10. exacta: £3.30. csc: £2.60.

PLACEPOT: £52.40

WETHERBY

12.55 (3m 1f): 1, **POLAR GUNNER** (A Dobbin 7-1); 2, **Super Nomad** (Mr T Greenall 6-1); 3, **Argento** (F Keniry 6-1). Encore Cadoudal 4-1 fav. Nk, 121.

10 ran. C Jefferson, Matton.

Total: £7.50; pl: £2.90, £2.20, £2.30. exacta: £63.00. trifecta: £479.90. csc: £47.44. tricast: £62.49.

2.35 (2m): 1, **WHISPERED PROMISES** (J P McNamara 40-1); 2, **L'Antarique** (K Mercer 4-5 fav); 3, **The Duke's Speech** (J M Maguire 7-1). 61, 31. 23 ran. R Brookhouse, Alescester.

Total: £0.30; pl: £1.80, £3.00, £1.10. exacta: £3.60. csc: £23.29.

PLACEPOT: £52.40

WETHERBY

12.55 (3m 1f): 1, **POLAR GUNNER** (A Dobbin 7-1); 2, **Super Nomad** (Mr T Greenall 6-1); 3, **Argento** (F Keniry 6-1). Encore Cadoudal 4-1 fav. Nk, 121.

10 ran. C Jefferson, Matton.

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10 ran. C Jefferson, Matton.

Total: £7.50; pl: £2.90, £2.20, £2.30. exacta: £63.00. trifecta: £479.90. csc: £47.44. tricast: £62.49.

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10 ran. C Jefferson, Matton.

Total: £7.50; pl: £2.90, £2.20, £2.30. exacta: £63.00. trifecta: £479.90. csc: £47.44. tricast: £62.49.

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PLACEPOT: £52.40

WETHERBY

12.55 (3m 1f): 1, **POLAR GUNNER** (A Dobbin 7-1); 2, **Super Nomad** (Mr T Greenall 6-1); 3, **Argento** (F Keniry 6-1). Encore Cadoudal 4-1 fav. Nk, 121.

10 ran. C Jefferson, Matton.

Total: £7.50; pl: £2.90, £2.20, £2.30. exacta: £63.00. trifecta: £479.90. csc: £47.44. tricast: £62.49.

2.35 (2m): 1, **WHISPERED PROMISES** (J P McNamara 40-1); 2, **L'Antarique** (K Mercer 4-5 fav); 3, **The Duke's Speech** (J M Maguire 7-1). 61, 31. 23 ran. R Brookhouse, Alescester.

Total: £0.30; pl: £1.80, £3.00, £1.10. exacta: £3.60. csc: £23.29.

PLACEPOT: £52.40

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Total: £0.30; pl: £1.80, £3

CARLISLE ON 09055 141 602 (612)

TONY LEWIS

STAR TIP

12.10 PERCUSSIONIST	12.10 PERCUSSIONIST
12.11 BOMBER BROOK	12.11 WINNIE GREEN
1.15 TURPIN GREEN	1.15 TURPIN GREEN
1.50 UNEXPLORED (nap)	1.50 ROYAL COBURG
2.25 SILVER KNIGHT	2.25 GRATTAN LODGE
3.00 DIAMOND SAL (nb)	3.00 TRANSIT
3.30 RED MAN	3.30 SILVER SEDGE

STANLEY: 1.15 Crossbow Creek (treble); 2.15 Parisienne Gale (nb); 3.25 Middleham Park (nap) - all Tautous.

CLOCKFORM: 2.25 Falchion 1pt win

ROTTWEILER: 12.10 Rainha 12.40 Beffling Secret 1.15 Fifteen Reds 1.50 Numero Un de Solzen 2.25 Silver Jack 3.00 Pay Attention 3.30 Lochiebuds.

GOING: Soft-Heavy in Places

PLACEPOT: First six races.

TRACKFACTS Right-hand undulating course of about one mile five furlongs in extent, with nine easy but well built fences and six hurdles per circuit. There is a severe uphill run of about 300yds. Suits the long striding galloping type.**12.10 OG'S RACING CLUB NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 1)** Class E (9 flights) 2m1f (11 runners) £2,912

1 0PO04 BRORA SUTHERLAND (33) Miss L Russell 10 12... P Buchanan(3) 80

2 534/P DATBANDITO (18) L Lungo 10 12... G Gibson 1

3 5 DOLANS SAL (21) G Moore 10 12... K Kenny 1

4 P/P72 FORTRESS (19) M Murphy 10 12... D C Costello(5) *#8

5 P/G KAYSOURCE (35) F Murphy 6 10 12... K Johnson 1

6 P/G MOBLEY PLEASURE (29) J Johnson 7 10 12... B Orde-Powlett(7) 77

7 28 ODDSMAKER (18) T.M Barnes 4 10 12... P McDonald(3) 80

8 6 LORIS BASKERELLE (25) G Moore 10 12... R C Guest 11 12

9 10 SILETHO SPIRIT (F149) M. Naughton 6 10 12... A Rose 1

10 04 STRAVONIAN (18) G. Swainson 5 10 12... J Crowley 1

11 210 WITCH WIND (229) S. A Cow 5 10 12... D McCann(5) 1

Star Betting: -4 Tornous Brook, 4 Hotwells Critic, 8 Oddsmaker, 10 Witch Wind, 16 Rainha, 20 Dandatious, 50 Dolans Bay, May Pleasure, 66 others. 2004: Roman Art, 6-10, (F King(3), 5-4 fav) J Jefferson, 13 ran.

STARFORM: PERCUSSIONIST Danger: Oddsmaker**12.10 OG'S RACING CLUB NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 2)** Class E (9 flights) 2m1f (11 runners) £2,912

1 8302 BAFFLING SECRET (318) Lungs 5 10 12... B Gibson 1

2 4 BOHEMIAN BROOK (16) Howard Johnson 4 10 12... G Lee 1

3 8 BORIS THE SPIDER (18) M Hammond 4 10 12... A Dobbins 1

4 5 LORIS BASKERELLE (25) G Moore 4 10 12... P McDonald(3) 80

5 465/D3 KARHAN (18) G Moore 4 10 12... K McGehee(3) 80

6 0 PLANTERS PUNCH (F21) G Moore 4 10 12... F Kenny 1

7 131/F5 RANDOME NATIVE (236) G.F. Richards 7 10 12... B Hardinge 1

8 0 TIGER KING (21) P Monlehy 4 10 12... K Renwick 62

9 45-5 WINAPEENY (10) M Murphy 6 10 12... K McGehee(3) 72

10 09 ZANDEED (F5) A Whinney 5 10 12... D McCann(5) 1

11 210 WITCH WIND (229) S. A Cow 5 10 12... D McCann(5) 1

Star Betting: -3 Bohemian Brook, Mr Tim, 4 Baffling Secret, 5 Random Native, 8 Lord Baskerville, 10 Boris The Spider, Planters Punch, 12 others. 2004: See Division 1.

STARFORM: WINAPENNY Danger: Bohemian Brook**1.15 WINTERTHUR LIFE NOVICES' CHASE** Class C (16 fencess) 2m4f (13 runners) £7,352

1 2114/P WILD CANE RIDGE (13)(CD,G,S) Lungs 6 11... DOUBTFUL 83

2 2PP/P-P6 RED FENDERS (13)(G) J Hayes 10 10... M J McAlister(5) -

3 8 BORIS THE SPIDER (18) M Hammond 4 10 12... A Dobbins 1

4 5 LORIS BASKERELLE (25) G Moore 4 10 12... P McDonald(3) 80

5 3255/D3 KARHAN (18) G Moore 4 10 12... R McGehee(3) 80

6 02421 LEADING MAN (216)(D,S) F Murphy 5 11... K Mercer(3) 54

7 138 LOR PAYNE (20) P Monlehy 7 11... K Renwick 76

8 144/2010 TENTH MINSTER (27)(CD,F,S) F Murphy 6 11... B Hardinge 1

9 012/P PEERLESS (21) G Moore 6 10 12... D McCann(5) 1

10 365/P SKENERFY (216)(D,S) Miss S Forster 6 11... J Crowley 1

11 1/P151 SUPREME LEISURE (241) S. J Howard Johnson 8 11... G Lee 1

12 021201 TRISONS STAR (217)(F,S) Mrs L Nollmeier 7 11... D Flavin(5) -

13 110 WINAPEENY (231)(D,S) N Richards 8 11... A Dobbins 1

Star Betting: -4 Tornous Brook, 5-10, (F King(3), 5-4 fav) J Crowley, 7 Supreme Leisure, 10 Trisons Star, 20 others. 25 others. 2004: Vandals Choice, 6-11-10, (P Buchanan(5), 11) Miss L Russell, 6 ran.

TURPIN GREEN can make a winning start over fences now that Wild Can Ridge does not line up. The selection was the best of these over hurdles and the only concern must be if the ground continues to soft. That may count against him but whatever the pens he is sure to win races this season. **Rebel Rhythm** was not far behind the selection over hurdles buthis jumping over the smaller obstacles was sometimes sloppy and he has already fallen over fences. He has the ability and if his improvements continue he could be a threat. **Leading Man** has built up a good record and may prove much better than he did over hurdles. He finished behind Trisons Star over the smaller obstacles but has improved since and can take his revenge over fences.**STARFORM: TURPIN GREEN Danger: Rebel Rhythm****1.50 E.B.F.'S NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES' HURDLE** Class E (11 flights) 2m4f (11 runners) £3,832

1 0PO5 JOFI (25) Miss L Russell 6 11... P Buchanan(5) -

2 3 LEY PREACHER (194) G Moore 4 11... F Kenny 1

3 262/E NEVADA RED (25) D McCann 4 11... S J Craine(5) 81

4 5 NOIR ET VERT (260) F Murphy 4 11... K Mercer(3) 54

5 34 REATH THE REWARD (21) G Moore 5 11... G Berridge(3) -

6 665/P-2010 TENTH MINSTER (21) G Moore 5 11... M G McAlister(5) *#8

7 0 SOILY RAKI (28) S. Corry 4 11... J Crowley 1

8 0 SOTOVOK (249) S. A Whinney 4 11... A Dobbins 1

9 11 THEATRE RIGHTS (19) J Hallane 5 11... A Dempsey 1

10 09 UNEXPLORED (28) J Howard Johnson 5 11... G Lee 23

Star Betting: -4 Turpin Green, 9-10, (A Dobbins, 1-4 fav) L Lungo, 8 ran. 2004: Wild Cane Ridge, 5-11-10, (P Buchanan(5), 11) Miss L Russell, 6 others.

STARFORM: UNEXPLORED Danger: Royal Coburg**ABC GUIDE TO ALL THREE MEETINGS****STARFORM: TURPIN GREEN Danger: Royal Coburg****STARFORM: UNEXPLORED Danger: Royal Coburg****STARFORM: TURPIN GREEN Danger: Royal Coburg****STARFORM: UNEXPLORED Danger: Royal Coburg****STARFORM: TURPIN GREEN Danger: Royal Coburg****STARFORM: TURPIN**

ALL THE ACES

www.dailystarpoker.com

THROUGH THE VICTOR CHANDLER GROUP

NEW DAILY GAMING COLUMN

Following up on our recent column about bluffing, a player on dailystarpoker.com mailed in with this famous tale of a mega bluff carried out by World Series of Poker Champ Stu Ungar.

FAMOUS BLUFFS

It's 1997 at the World Series final table and Stu Ungar looks to be in the driving seat. Having been chip leader from the outset you might have expected Stu to coast a little. Not a bit of it. Stu attacked anyone and everyone and raised on seven successive hands. Was he bluffing? You can bet on it, but none of the other players wanted to risk elimination by challenging him. Eventually, Vegas pro Ronald Stanley managed to steal the blinds a couple of times and positioned himself just \$200,000 shy of Ungar's mighty stash.

It looked like Stanley was about to overtake Ungar and inevitably they ended up in the kind of heads up ordinary poker players dream about. Ungar is in the big blind and Stanley simply calls. The flop comes down Ace of Spades, Nine of Hearts, Six of Spades. Ron Stanley, an extremely savvy pro, had noted every time Ungar flopped top pair with an Ace, he checked the flop and bet the turn. Stu again checked behind Stanley, indicating he may well have the Ace again. The turn produced an Eight and Stanley, nursing a Nine in his hand and second pair, wagered \$25,000. Stu immediately raised \$60,000 and Stanley replied with a call. The river threw down a King. Stanley checked and Ungar bet \$225,000. Ron Stanley pondered momentarily and folded. In typical psycho style Ungar turned up his hole cards to reveal Queen and Ten. He had nothing. It was a mega bluff and Stanley had thrown away the top hand.

TIP OF THE DAY

The very best use of the bluff comes when the community cards are indicating that a probable flush or a straight are out there. A big bet winging in when there's say three Spades on the board or three consecutive cards is going to be treated much more seriously than a big bet coming in when the board isn't betraying anything of a particularly threatening nature. Keep your eye out for these situations as they develop and be ready to load up if it fits in with your strategy for the hand.

POKER ON ITV

As if to finally recognise the sensational momentum in poker's online popularity, ITV 4 has allotted no less than seventy two hours of poker programming for the first two seasons of the World Poker Tour, in the hope of duplicating the tour's amazing success on television in the USA. How long before poker overtakes soccer in the viewing stakes. Check out dailystarpoker.com and see what all the fuss is about.

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FUN 'N THRILLS

Just one of the reasons to choose

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CRICKET: Flintoff magic gives England hope



ROAR POWER:
Freddie after pole-axeing local hero Shahid Afridi

■ by RODNEY WHITE in Faisalabad

TODAY'S a big day for Ian Botham – his 50th birthday. And it could be an equally important landmark for the new Beefy – Freddie Flintoff.

It was Flintoff's never-say-die guts which kept English hopes alive in the Second Test yesterday and hopes of an unlikely victory surely rest on his shoulders on the final day of the series.

The England all-rounder has, without question, now stepped into the boots of the legendary Botham.

It will certainly take one of those miraculous performances to enable England to level the series as Pakistan were pegged back to 183-6 – a lead of 199 in their second innings.

But it was Flintoff's two wickets in two balls shortly after tea that forced the door open again for England and raised hopes of a seventh successive Test series win.

Hero

Flintoff, who took 3-46, had asked for an extra over in the final session.

And it paid off as he had Mohammad Yousuf edging on and then next ball knocked out local hero Shahid Afridi's middle-stump with a reverse-swinging delivery.

"I asked for one more over. The ball was reversing a little bit and I'd hit quite a nice rhythm from that end," he said.

"I was running in quite nicely and I felt I had another couple in me."

He meant overs – but was right on the wicket's score, too. Yousuf's dismissal ended a fourth-wicket stand of 56 and Afridi had slaughtered the England attack in his first innings 92.

"We saw from the way he played the other day Afridi can take a game



DUCKING IT: Flintoff bumps Salman Butt

away from you very quickly, so it's crucial to get him out cheaply if you can," Flintoff added.

"We stuck in all day – everybody worked hard. We've seen out here that a couple of quick wickets can change the game – and we've managed to get back in it."

One man that Flintoff could not shift, though, was Pakistan captain Inzamam, whose defiance put him on the verge of another half-century.

Flintoff had earlier seen off opener Shoaib Malik, then Matthew Hoggard caught Younis Khan leg-before.

England had a little luck on their side, too, over the dismissal only four runs later of Butt, who made 50.

He would not have been on strike had umpire Darrell Hair not sent the left-hander back when he picked up a single from the previous ball, only to be judged to have run up the middle of the wicket.

Steve Harmison gave England another boost just before the close when Kamran Akmal followed the swing to be caught behind.

The England paceman had also done his bit with the bat in a last-wicket stand with Shaun Udal that added 47 precious runs.

SCOREBOARD

Overnight Pakistan 402 (Inzamam 109). England 391 (Fall 115).	
ENGLAND First Innings	
Giles b Afridi	26
Udal not out	33
Hoggard b Shahid Afridi	2
Harmison run out	5
Extra b Afridi w/c	36
Total (132.3 overs)	446
Fall - 1.3 2.39 3.107 4.261 5.272 6.327	
7-70 8-133 9-183	
Bowling: Shoaib Akhtar 274-93-2. Naved-ul-Hasan 20-2-63-2. Mohammad Sami 19-5-1. Shoaib Malik 12-1-32-1. Steve Harmison 13-3-32-3. Shoaib Afridi 41-0-99-4	
PAKISTAN Second Innings Close	
Shoaib Afridi Flintoff	25
Salman Butt bowled Udal	50
Younis Khan lbw b Hoggard	27
Mohammad Yousuf b Flintoff	20
Inzamam run out	14
Shahid Afridi Flintoff	0
Kamran Akmal 14-1-104-1. Steve Harmison 9	
Rana Nadeem not out	0
Extras b4 b6 nb2	10
Total 6 wkt (66 overs)	183
Fall - 1.104 3-104 4-104 5-104 6-104	
Bowling: Hafeez 9-0-25-1. Flintoff 19-2-46-3. Hamza 14-2-41-1. Giles 13-2-35-0. Udal 11-22-25.	

5 FOR FUN

- Which three-time Derby winning jockey will race over hurdles in Britain and Ireland this winter?
- Eddie Jones is coach of which rugby union international country?
- What was the tongue-twister record of a Scottish Second Division match between Forfar and East Fife, in the 1963-64 season?
- Which English football club play home games at the Kassam Stadium?
- In which year were athletics events at the Olympic trials last held on a winter track?

ANSWERS: Page 61

SPORTWORD

ACROSS

- The nickname of Plymouth Argyle (6)
- Apparatus for male gymnasts (5)
- Irish League football club (5)
- Essex and England wicket-keeper (6)
- Aouita, men's 5,000 metres Olympic champion in 1984 (4)
- Jacky Le Mans winner on six occasions (4)
- Greg twice Open golf champion (6)
- Ian Levante and Republic of Ireland defender (5)
- Hughes, Liverpool, Wolves and England defender (5)
- James Lancashire and England fast bowler (8)

CALL 0805 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 61 for Wednesday's answers.



Robbo's eyeing try blitz

■ by DEAN WILSON

ANDY ROBINSON has made five changes to the England starting 15 as he aims for a try-fest against Samoa on Saturday.

Out go Ben Cohen, Jamie Noon, Matt Dawson, Phil Vickery and Danny Grewcock, and in come Tom Voyce, James Simpson-Daniel, Harry Ellis, Matt Stevens and Louis Deacon.

Simpson-Daniel has been recalled into the centre to ignite the back-line, which has yet to sparkle this season.

Pace

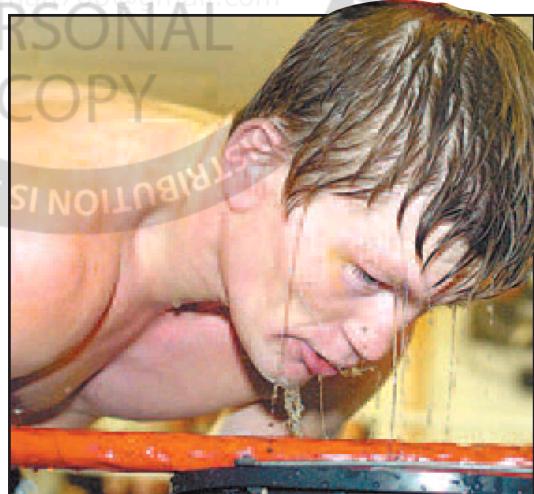
The Gloucester man will earn his eighth cap since bursting onto the scene in 2002.

Robinson said: "We want to see James bring what we know he can to the game, which is very good handling, great running skills and fantastic pace."

Simpson-Daniel said: "I've got to bring the best of my game out while filling some big boots too."

Team: Lewsey, Cueto, Simpson-Daniel, Tindall, Voyce, Hodgson, Ellis, Sheridan, Thompson, Stevens, Bothwell, Gandy, Anderson, Moody, Jerry, Robinson, Mears, Freshwater, Shaw, Forrester, Dawson, Barkley, Varndell.

WARREN FIGHT MADE ME SICK



KEEP DUCKING: Ricky Hatton stays cool before Saturday's big title fight

RICKY HATTON says his split with promoter Frank Warren made him so ill that he was forced to miss training.

Hatton meets teak-tough Colombian Carlos Maussa in a light-welterweight unification showdown at the Sheffield Arena on Saturday, confessing that his build-up has been far from ideal.

The IBF world champion revealed: "This has been the most difficult time of my career. Things have got very personal with Frank and some of the hurtful things that have been said badly upset me.

"I made myself ill with frustration and had to take a couple of days out of the gym. My training has been affected but my performance against Maussa won't be."

Hatton will box under the Dennis Hobson's Fight Academy umbrella at Sheffield following his acrimonious departure from Warren, the promoter who guided him to the top of the pile.

Damages

Warren took out an injunction to prevent the Maussa fight taking place but then withdrew it.

But he is still taking legal action against the Hatton camp for damages for breach of contract.

Right now, though, Hatton is fully focused on Saturday's bout.

He said: "It has made me all the more determined to go out there and unleash all the frustration I've got in me."

The fight, screened live on Sky Box Office, is a rare venture out-

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

side of his home city Manchester. And the pressure is on him to deliver more than ever following the stunning June win over Aussie legend Kostya Tszyu which saw him become the best fighter in the 10-stone division.

Hatton said: "Tszyu was one of the greatest nights of my life but Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns had several. That's what I want."

"To be a world champion is special but to beat the best in the world in my division and one of the best pound-for-pound fighters is a great achievement."

"But the best is yet to come. I've become a good world champion but I want to be a great one."

Lee out in cold

WALES coach Mike Ruddock has brought in Matthew Watkins and switched captain Gareth Thomas to full-back for Saturday's Test against Australia in Cardiff.

Ruddock has kept changes to a minimum after a much-improved performance in last weekend's 33-16 defeat to South Africa so Watkins replaces Thomas at outside centre with Lee Byrne dropping to the bench.

Ruddock said: "The rationale for selection was to minimise the changes this week and build on the performance against South Africa."

No Ebi ending

■ by IAN WHITTELL

ENGLISH basketball player Ndudi Ebi has been released by the Minnesota Timberwolves, having been paid £15,000 a minute for his trouble.

Ebi, born in London to Nigerian parents, was selected in the first round of the NBA draft in 2003 and handed a guaranteed £1.2m contract.

However, after taking part in just 19 games, Ebi, 21, was released by the Wolves last week.

THE BOTTLE TO BE DIFFERENT.



MORE OF THE SUGAR TURNS TO ALCOHOL FOR A DISTINCTIVE TASTE.



Text Dssport followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

TEXT DSSPORT TO 61616

TEXTS TO WOOLY

Greatest players in the prem should lead by example on & off the pitch. Roy Keane was a dirty player & ill-tempered. M. Graham

REASON WE DIDN'T GET RONALDINHO WAS DOWN 2 KENYON. HE KNEW HE WAS LEAVING 4 CHELSEA. MAN UTD FAN

I agree wot a Grt goal Roudz woz i think. Collins Jan goal against Boro is a definite contenda 4 goal of the month or even Goal of the season. Class Utd fan

Ferguson's so called media wholly illustrated what the majority of this country feel about media parasites who produce nothing & add nothing 2 our quality of life. Phil Alex

Alan hansen and that other little t*** with a tash aint got a clue what they r about keane was brilliant in the premiership not the best. Lee Terry Gillingham

Hansen is right im a liverpool fan and would love to have had keane at anfield in his prime a proper footballer who still is a cut above most others except gerard and lampard. Lampy

Keano best player prems eva had, zidane deschamps n davids cudnt cope wi him. ANON

Bergkamp. Zola best players ever 2 grace premiership. Ginger S'ton

OTHER TEXTS

Geordie maggots loyal? Biggest myth ever. 10,000 against oxford before your saviour with the bad hairdo joined. And yes i can spell loyalty ash

To Jan Belfast, Fergie has done wonders for our club and has brought success. Dont jump on band wagon and slag him. Keano and Becks great players but we lost great players before and still won things. United in free fall?

Go slag somebody else off Hail Sir Alex. Red Suggy

To the rams, ur even worse this season. we re comin 4 ya! beware. huggy pone

Jack scum will never b bigger than cardiff. bluebird reg

Thank goodness for fog! Bolton boys love fog. BWFC EURO TOUR 05/06. IGGY BOY

Hope you're ready for a hammering on saturday bulls, your place stinks of bulls*** losers. turner the turnip and his team of cr-pxxx.

sid&Sparky@ecfc

D'YA KNOW Y JESUS WASN'T BORN IN ANFIELD? COZ U'D NEVER FIND 3 WISE MEN N A VIRGIN THERE! HAPPY XMAS 2 EFC TEXT MANIACS. X. JOANIE @ EFC

Bill Kenwright there's a young Evertonian who's banged in SEVENTEEN goals so far this season, TRUNDLE 2 the bank & give Swansea the ackers

RAPID - WOOLY

SERIOUSLY
football

Jimmy's ready to prove a point

HASSEL: YOU CAN BAINK ON ME



IAN MURTAGH
in Alkmaar

JIMMY FLOYD HASSELBAINK tonight returns to the scene where his career almost stalled, intent on underlining his status as one of Europe's top marksmen.

The Middlesbrough striker, 33, has come a long way from the time when he mustered just two goals in 35 games for AZ Alkmaar after an equally bad spell at Telstar.

Having spent three months in prison for handling stolen goods and becoming involved with drug dealers during his troublesome teen years, Hasselbaink's prospects both on and off the pitch looked grim.

But his career took off 13 years ago when he swapped Dutch football for a life in Portugal with Camponororense. And he's not looked back since those traumatic times in Alkmaar.

And while Hasselbaink flew into Holland last night for Boro's UEFA Cup tie against their chief rivals in Group D insisting he has nothing to prove, he declared: "I'm 10 times the player I was back then."

"At the start of my career I didn't help myself and wasn't professional enough."

"I was always late. I skipped training. I used to lie in and say I was ill. I thought I'd already made it. I was too big for my boots. I thought they couldn't sack me."

"When Alkmaar released me I looked for another club but no one wanted me or couldn't offer the money I needed to pay my rent, my car, water, gas and all those things. That's why I went non-league."

Strange

Hasselbaik hasn't stopped scoring since moving to Portugal having played for Leeds, Chelsea and Boro as well as Boavista and Atletico Madrid.

He added: "Gradually, people started putting their arms around my shoulders and believing in me."

"It is quite strange how in Holland nobody believed in me and I didn't get the opportunity and I had to go abroad to produce the goods."

Hasselbaik revisited his eventual past in his recently published autobiography and believes fate has decreed Boro and AZ are drawn in the same group.

He said: "It's strange doing the book and then going back. It's good timing but it's quite frightening."

"I will be coming back 10 times better. I've achieved something while I've been gone. I've become a Dutch international. "I can go back with my head held high and they will look at me as having done something."

Boro boast a 100 per cent record after two games, while the Dutch side



DUTCH OF CLASS: Hasselbaik and (inset) boss McClaren

three points having played just once. Both are likely to reach the knockout stages, with Steve McClaren's side needing just a point to progress.

DRUGS cheat Abel Xavier last night entered football's hall of shame when he became the first-ever Premiership player to be banned for taking a performance-enhancing substance.

The Portuguese bad boy is facing the sack from Middlesbrough tomorrow after being handed an 18-month suspension by UEFA.

Boro refused to confirm their decision on the eve of their UEFA Cup tie against AZ Alkmaar with a point guaranteeing their place in the last 32.

But commenting on the verdict from Nyon in Switzerland, Boro manager Steve McClaren said: "There is no place for this in football and we will always condemn it."

"Abel is not going to play this season whether he appeals or not."

"I have only just heard the news and it is disappointing but our reaction will come in the next couple of days when we've had time to digest everything."

TEAMS

AZ ALKMAAR (probable): Timmer, Steinsson, Jaliens, Mathijssen, De Cler, Schaars, Landzaat, Van Galen, Sektioui, Arveladze, Perez.

BORO (probable): Jones, Riggott, Southgate, Ehiozu, Parnaby, Doriva, Boateng, Morrison, Queudrue, Hasselbaik, Viduka.

Ref: Gianluca Paparesta (Italy).

TV: (ITV4, 5pm, KO 5.30pm).

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrou	2	0	0	4	0	6
AZ Alkmaar	1	0	0	2	1	3
Litex Lovet	2	0	0	3	1	3
Grasshoppers	2	0	0	2	1	3
Dnipro	0	0	2	1	5	0

TO PLAY: Tonight: Az v Middlesbrou, Dnipro v Litex Lovet. Wed, Nov 30: Grasshoppers v Dnipro, Litex Lovet v AZ. Thurs, Dec 1: Az v Grasshoppers, Middlesbrou v Litex Lovet.

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New Bolton skipper loves the lure of Europe

CAPN KEVIN EYES GLORY

KEVIN NOLAN is starting to feel like Captain Birdseye since becoming Bolton skipper – because everyone's taking the peas.

The 23-year-old was given the armband for keeps on Saturday after standing in for the injured Jay-Jay Okocha and leading the team to four wins out of four without a single goal conceded.

But he admits his new-found responsibility has come at a price, both in the training ground and even among non-footballing friends.

He said: "They all say I've changed now I'm captain, and whenever I do anything wrong I get even more stick. It is worse with people at home. 'Every time I ring them it is always, 'All right, skipper'. I'm starting to feel like Captain Birdseye."

"At least the lads haven't done anything to 'celebrate' my appointment. If they had cut my clothes up there would have been murder – I'd have got them all fined."

The decision by Sam Allardyce was a difficult one and was only

by GEORGE SCOTT
In Guimaraes

arrived at after talks with Okocha himself. The Bolton manager scoffs at reports that losing the captaincy will hurry the Nigerian out of the Reebok Stadium when the transfer window opens.

And Nolan has been impressed at the good grace with which he has accepted the demotion.

Grace

He said: "Jay-Jay has been fantastic. He was the first one to come over and congratulate me.

"Ever since he took over as captain he has been fantastic and he has been a true gentleman over the decision and I cannot speak highly enough of him.

"I know this season there are going to be times when I am going to need the likes of Jay-Jay maybe to put an arm round my shoulder when things aren't going so well."

Ahead of tonight's UEFA Cup tie with Portuguese side Guimaraes, and with Bolton undefeated in

Europe in their debut season, he hopes the good times might come sooner rather than later.

Nolan said: "We have surprised everybody with how well we have adapted to Europe and we have surprised ourselves too.

"But we are an ambitious club and we think that whatever competition we are in we have a good chance of winning it.

"I had the experience of getting to the League Cup final a couple of years ago and nothing would be more fantastic than lifting a trophy with Bolton.

"We can do that this season, but the next six weeks could make or break the season."

TEAMS

BOLTON (4-3-3): Walker; O'Brien, Ben Haim, N'Gotty, Gardner; Faye, Okocha, Speed; Stelios, Nolan, Borgetti.

VITORIA (4-4-2): Freitas; Mario Sergio, Dragone, Moreno, Cleber; Svard, Necá, Flavio, Benachour; Saganowski, Dario.

Ref: L Duhamel (France).

TV: (C5, 7.45pm, KO 8pm)



GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sevilla	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Zenit	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Besiktas	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Guimaraes	1	0	0	1	1	4	1

TO PLAY: Tonight: Zenit v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Bolton, Thursday, Dec 1; Besiktas v Zenit, Friday, Guimaraes v Bolton, Dec 14; Bolton v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Besiktas.

Sidwell: We're in top gear

■ by SCOTT COLEMAN

STEVE SIDWELL is confident he and his Reading team-mates will be playing in the Premiership next season – but boss Steve Coppell is keeping their feet firmly on the ground.

After the Royals whipped Ipswich 3-0 to go top of the Championship, Sidwell said: "The boys are on fire at the moment."

"We are going into every game feeling as if we're unbeatable. We are absolutely flying and everyone is so confident."

Credit

"To have gone 22 games unbeaten is incredible."

But boss Coppell is keen that, despite the long unbeaten run, he doesn't want October and November to become the highlights of their season.

"Great credit should go to the gaffer for what we've achieved," added Sidwell. "Steve keeps our feet firmly on the ground."

"He doesn't say a lot during the week and then you really find out his qualities on a match day. He prepares so well for every game and he gives a little speech before you go out."

"I'm telling you, it's like something out of Braveheart. You feel like you're going to war."

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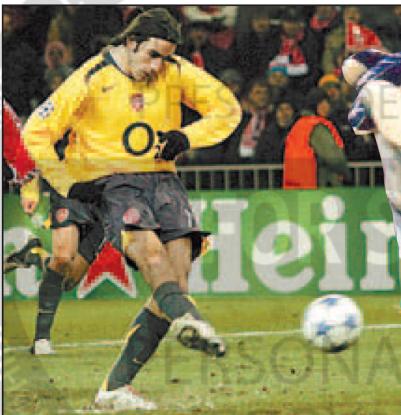


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SPOT ON: Robert Pires scores the winner

Pires: I'm Gunner be staying on

PENALTY hero Robert Pires yesterday confirmed he will see out his contract at Arsenal as he predicted the Gunners could at last be on the brink of European glory.

Pires was the match winner in Switzerland on Tuesday when he came off the bench to replace Thierry Henry and calmly converted an 89th-minute penalty for the only goal of the game against FC Thun.

His winner ensured Arsenal maintained their 100 per cent record in the Champions League this season – a competition in which Arsene Wenger's side have never been past the last eight – and clinched top spot in Group B.

Boss Wenger hailed Pires for taking the spot-kick, having famously cocked-up when he attempted a trick one with Henry against Manchester City a month ago.

Last night the Frenchman – who has been linked with

■ by DAVID WOODS

this season and I very much want to stay. I'm going nowhere – that is for certain.

"And I hope I am at Arsenal next season. That is very much what I want."

Pires – who confirmed earlier this month that only the intervention of boss Wenger stopped him from joining Juventus with Patrick Vieira in the summer – said he had no qualms about taking the penalty in Bern.

He added: "Did I think back to what happened against Manchester City? No, not at all.

"I know it was the first time that I took a penalty since then but I wasn't nervous about it.

"I felt very confident because I knew it was an important one and was likely to give us a win."

■ DENNIS BERGKAMP is hoping his testimonial game will be one of the first fixtures at Arsenal's new Emirates Stadium. The Dutchman is set to retire at the end of the current season.

Feeling
With his contract up in the summer and no immediate signs of a new one, it had been thought the 32-year-old could be tempted by a new offer from elsewhere when the transfer window opens in January.

Pires is likely to receive just a one-year offer from the Gunners but will hold out for two.

He said: "I am here for the season, no question."

"Yes, I will be talking to the club in January but the only thing I am thinking of is winning something with Arsenal this season."

"I have had this feeling since the start of the season that we could do something special in the Champions League."

"Now we've finished top of the group, we have a better chance of progressing with the combination of youth and experience we have in the team. I'll not be leaving before the end of

SERIOUSLY
football

Benfica crunch beckons for

ED: WE'RE

■ by BILL THORNTON

EDWIN VAN DER SAR last night admitted Manchester United are lucky to still have a chance of staying in the Champions League.

"I think we have got away with it a little bit," the United keeper insisted as fans came to terms with the awful possibility that their heroes could fall at the first hurdle.

United's goalless draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal leaves them with only one win from five in Group D – and the outcome of the group in the melting pot.

Van der Sar, veteran of two European Cup Finals with Ajax in the 1990s, didn't duck the unpalatable truth when he said: "We are still in with a chance only because of the other results."

Fortunately for manager Sir Alex Ferguson, United's lacklustre efforts have been matched by the other teams in the group, all three of whom have also won only once.

Benfica are the top-scoring side with three goals – and they are bottom with five points, one less than the Reds who are in third place.

But if the Portuguese team beat United in Lisbon on December 7, United won't even make the UEFA Cup.

Glory

It is all a big let-down for Ferguson, the fans, United's new owners the Glazers – and for Van der Sar, the 35-year-old stopper who signed from Fulham seeking more glory in Europe.

"I am really enjoying playing in the Champions League again," said the multi-capped Holland star. So, I would really like to keep going into the next phase.

"It would be very difficult and disappointing for me if we don't go through."

The same can be said for everyone at United, not least Malcolm Glazer, who would kiss goodbye to a potential extra £15m if the team is beaten in Benfica next month.

Yet, such is the delicacy of the situation that victory in the Stadium of Light in Lisbon would guarantee progress and a crack at that jackpot.

And the United players are still backing boss Fergie to see them through.

Destiny

Wayne Rooney, whose form on Wednesday was one of the few bright spots, insisted yesterday: "Sir Alex has been around in the game for years and in my eyes he's probably the best manager of all time."

Rio Ferdinand added: "We would rather be in this position where we know what we have to do rather than have to wait for the other result."

"We have to rely on our own resolve and make sure we get through to the next phase."

"Our destiny is in our own hands and we have the capability of doing the job."

"We have to make sure we

Phone giants hang up

From Back Page
United. The club's commercial director Andy Anson was last night insistent that he will clinch another major shirt deal.

Vodafone end their agreement next summer, two years early, and will become one of the main sponsors of the Champions League.

Their decision strengthens the theory that United, who have conceded pre-eminence in the Premiership to Chelsea, can no longer count on their name alone guaranteeing them the best sponsorships.

Anson was having none of that as he said: "The Manchester United shirt is the most iconic in sport."

"The club feels there is a genuine chance to attract significant additional investment. We are confident of securing a new deal in the coming months."

Record

But Bones doesn't think United will find the big hitters of the branding world queuing up, as they once did, to back the Reds.

Chelsea recently secured a British record £50m, five-year shirt deal with Samsung and Real Madrid – David Beckham and all – will enter a world record, £16m-a-year agreement with Taiwanese mobile phone company BenQMobile next summer.

Bones said: "No financial expert can see how the huge debt Glazer has put on United can be paid back, so what large sponsor would want to back the club while he is there?"

"As far as we are concerned, the sooner the Glazers go, the better."

United say they have been aware for some months of Vodafone's decision and have planned accordingly.

Clearly, the team's continued involvement in the Champions League is crucial to their business plan.

OH BROTHER: Avi, Brian and Joel Glazer look on as United can only draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal

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football



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Liverpool goal

SOUTHAMPTON captain Nigel Quashie can not play until Boxing Day after being handed a three-match ban for being sent-off in Tuesday's draw at Hull.

BIRMINGHAM youngster Sam Oji has joined Doncaster on a six-week loan deal.

STOKE will offer John Halls in a straight swap for West Ham winger Luke Chadwick in the January transfer window.

BLACKBURN boss Mark Hughes has allowed striker Jemal Johnson to extend his loan at Preston for a second month.

OXFORD striker Danny Morgan has joined Basingstoke Town on a month's loan.

MANCHESTER United defender Paul McShane has had to cut short his loan at Brighton after being ruled out for three months with an ankle ligaments injury.

JOHN HOLLINS, the former Chelsea and Swansea boss, has been named manager of Crawley Town.

BURY have given a trial to Burscough FA Cup hero Liam Blakeman.

IPSWICH striker Sam Parkin is out for four months after breaking his ankle in the defeat by Reading on Tuesday.

OFR winger Aaron Brown has been rejected by Barnsley after a trial.

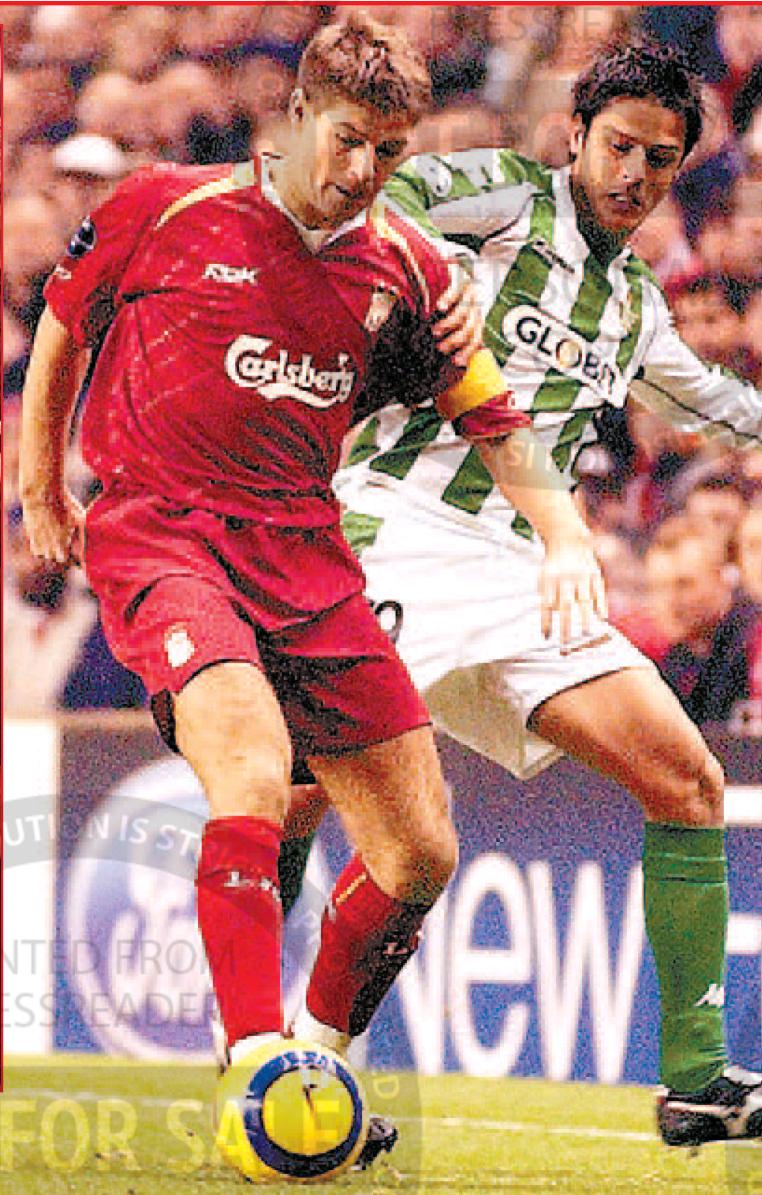
FORMER Scotland international Don Hutchison has left Millwall by mutual consent just three months after signing for them.

LUTON have lodged a complaint to the Trinidad and Tobago FA after Carlos Edwards returned late from international duty.

NEIL Warnock has told loan signing Vincent Pericard to decide if he wants to stay at Sheffield United. The Portsmouth hitman's deal runs out next month.



TALL ORDER: Liverpool's Peter Crouch meets female assistant referee Nelly Viennott and Steven Gerrard (right) tries to get the better of Oscar Lopez
Pics: JOHN DAWES



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flop out of luck but Reds go through

BLUE PETER STILL BLANK

IT may have been a goalless draw but European Cup holders Liverpool are through to the knockout stages of the Champions League.

They now travel to Stamford Bridge on December 6 for a Group G showdown with Jose Mourinho's Chelsea all-stars – and they need only a point to claim top spot.

Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard should have put the game beyond doubt in the 89th minute when he was through one-on-one with Betis keeper Antonio Doblas – but the stopper got a hand to his shot to keep his side on level terms.

It might have been a bitterly cold night on Merseyside but Peter Crouch did his best to warm the fans and end his nightmarish goal drought.

By the time he trudged off in the 83rd minute he had run himself into the ground for the Kop's cause – and still not managed to find the net despite having TEN chances to score.

Frantic

Crouch went tantalisingly close four times in a frantic three-minute spell midway through the first half.

The great £7m man first of all showed a fine touch by swivelling around and changing the ball from his left foot to his right before firing in a shot which was taken on the line by Doblas in the 24th minute.

Then skipper Steven Gerrard put him through but Crouch just couldn't get enough pace on his shot and the ball was cleared for a corner.

Gerrard then sent over the flag kick from which Crouch directed a powerful downward header just wide, with keeper Doblas caught completely out of position.

The crowd, and Crouch's team-mates, were clearly willing him on to end that barren spell in front of goal and he almost did it just a few seconds later.

Once again it was that man Gerrard who lobbed the ball over from the right wing to find the England international, who once again headed just inches wide.

It was the kind of run-until-you-drop performance the Anfield crowd had been longing to see from the sometimes awkward-looking Crouch.

And he certainly got plenty of vocal backing



by KEVIN FRANCIS
Liverpool...0 Real Betis....0

from them. It was all a far cry from some of the crowd reactions he's had this season.

Most noticeably the way he was booted while warming up to come on as substitute for England earlier this season.

Burst
Those four quick-fire goal attempts certainly livened up the crowd on a freezing night.

And Crouch's encouraging workrate was certainly a cause for terrace optimism against the live-wire visitors. And by

joves were they quick! Betis really did cause Liverpool plenty of problems with their nippy moves upfield causing plenty of jitters in the Liverpool rearguard.

Burst
Xisco was troublesome and frequently managed to burst through alone, his speed causing John Arne Riise a few problems at the back.

Then Joaquin burst through and nutmegged Riise only to have the ball

run away from him as he lined himself up for an effort goal just before half-time.

Betis were second bottom in La Liga but Liverpool's Spanish boss Rafa Benitez had warned before the game that they were in something of a false position.

Their play certainly backed up his words and it was only because Liverpool were at something approaching the top of their game that they were able to keep control of the match for long periods.

And in Gerrard they had someone who was once again in outstanding form, spraying the ball around with the kind of inch-perfect passing that

is such a trademark of his game.

Yet, typical of this captain marvel, he also rolled his sleeves up and took his turn at scoring opportunities whenever they arose. One particular right-foot effort in the 37th minute looked to be a certain goal until Doblas managed to get in the way and divert the danger.

Doblas was one of the busiest men on the pitch, keeping an eye on Crouch while doing his best to stifle Fernando Morientes.

He blocked one fine first-half Morientes effort and then flung himself at the striker's feet to deny him at the start of the second period as well.

But he saved the best for last, denying Istanbul hero Gerrard with a minute remaining when a goal seemed a certainty.

TEAMS

LIVERPOOL: Reina, Finnigan, Carragher, Hyypia, Rille, Gerrard, Hamann, Sissoko, Zenden, Crouch, Morelles, Subs: Dudek, Kewell, Ciisse, Josemi, Traore, Warnock, Potter.
REAL BETIS: Doblas, Mell, Juanito, Rivas, Oscar, Vazquez, Viana, Assuncao, Rivero, Arzu, Xisco, Fernando, Subs: Contreras, Canas, Capi, Castellini, Edu, Juanlu, Israel.
Ref: Eric Poulat (France).



LONG SHOT:
Peter Crouch tries to get past Alberto Rivera

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FOOTBALL

UEFA Champions League Group E

Fenerbahce (0) 0 AC Milan (1) 4
Shoeshoe 16, 52, 70, 76
Alt: 50,000

Schalke 04 (1) 3 PSV (0) 0

Kobishvili 18 pen, 73, 79 pen

At: 30,000

P W D L F A Pts

AC Milan 5 2 2 1 9 4 8

Schalke 04 5 2 2 1 10 6 8

PSV 5 2 1 2 2 6 7

Fenerbahce 5 1 1 3 7 0 0

At: 30,000

Group F

Real Madrid (1) 1 Lyon (0) 1

Carew 72

Alt: 59,000

Rosenborg (0) 1 Olympiakos (1) 1

Rivako 25

Alt: 17,450

Sent off: A Pantos (Olympiakos) 85

P W D L F A Pts

Lyon 5 1 2 2 6 7 12

Real Madrid 5 3 1 1 9 6 10

Rosenborg 5 1 1 3 5 9 4

Olympiakos 5 1 1 4 5 12 1

At: 42,077

Group G

Anderlecht (0) 0 Chelsea (2) 2

Crespo 8

Alt: 21,070

Real Betis (0) 0

Carvalho 15

Liverpool (0) 0 At: 42,077

P W D L F A Pts

Liverpool 5 1 2 2 6 7 11

Chelsea 5 3 1 1 7 1 10

Real Betis 5 1 2 2 3 6 0

Anderlecht 5 1 1 0 0 8 0

At: 42,077

Group H

Porto (0) 1 Rangers (0) 1

Lopez 52

McComack 83

Alt: 48,000

Inter Milan (2) 4 A Bratislava (0) 0

Figo 28

Adriano 41, 59, 74

P W D L F A Pts

Inter Milan 5 1 0 1 8 3 12

Rangers 5 1 3 1 6 6 6

A Bratislava 5 1 2 2 5 9 5

Porto 5 1 1 3 8 9 4

UEFA Cup Group B: Lokomotiv Moscow v Borussia

Northern Section Second Round

Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) .. 3

Christie 28

Blackwood 40

At: 1,131

Southern Section Second Round

Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) .. 1

Eloboki 57 Kirk 26, Boje 67

Garcia 90 Alt: 1,719

(After 90 mins 2-2 extra time)

Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) ... 0

Sabin 27 Alt: 1,521

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6/4 Guimaraes 9/4 Draw Bolton 11/8

UEFA Cup, tonight, kick-off 8.00pm, live on Channel 5

correct score

first goalscorer

Guimaraes 0-0 Bolton 5/1 K. Davies (B)

1/12 1-0 EH. Diouf (B)

5/1 1-1 J. Borgetti (B)

10/12 2-0 S. Sosa (B)

8/1 2-1 .9/1 Stellos (B)

14/11 2-2 14/1 JJ. Okocha (B)

28/11 3-0 25/1 H. Nakata (B)

20/1 3-1 29/1 G. Speed (B)

Others available on request

7/1 K. Davies (B)

EH. Diouf (B)

J. Borgetti (B)

S. Sosa (B)

JJ. Okocha (B)

H. Nakata (B)

G. Speed (B)

Others available on request

Tonight's other UEFA Cup matches available on request. All prices subject to fluctuation.

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SERIOUSLY
football

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Crespo repays his

Chelsea back in groove

IT was below freezing here in Brussels – but it's the rest of Europe who should be shivering. Just who will be too hot for Chelsea this season?

Manchester United have bigger problems of their own, and now they need a new sponsor as well as a fresh direction. Arsenal will come hard, but do they have the depth?

We will probably have to wait for Barcelona and Ronaldinho to give Jose Mourinho and his men their ultimate test. Barca versus the Blues, now that would be a tasty Champions League Final.

What we discovered here was that Chelsea have repaired any early-season rough edges and look in the mood again.

Intrigue

Mourinho, of course, never had any doubts but there were questions to answer after defeats at Old Trafford in the league and Real Betis in Europe. A Carling Cup exit in the middle only added to the intrigue.

Victory over Newcastle on Saturday followed by this stroll means normal service has been resumed. We didn't really think anything else, did we?

Chelsea's well-oiled machine is running smoothly again. And it is going to take something or someone special to stop them winning a really big prize.

Anticipating that moment will be like waiting for the lottery numbers on a Saturday night, nope, not this week.

Liverpool will believe they can retain their trophy – but would anyone bet on them beating Chelsea over two legs



WOOLY'S VERDICT

again? Chelsea have so many players of quality, and here is a good time to praise the rebuilding of Joe Cole.

Cole was so unhappy at being left out by England against Argentina recently that he let coach Sven Goran Eriksson know his feelings before kick-off in Geneva.

Such is Cole's new-found confidence that his reaction when he finally came on, making the winning goal for Michael Owen, proved his point.

He believes he has never played better in his career.

He has lost his inconsistent tag and learned so much from Mourinho. Last night Cole couldn't help but express himself in a Chelsea performance that was as comfortable as it gets in Europe.

Cole is now close to being first choice with club and country, and it is credit to him that he has come so far so quickly.

Today he is a team player, rather than a circus act with no end product.

His dedication should be a lesson to any player who believes there is nothing to learn once they hit the heady heights of Championship medals and England caps.

Once Chelsea had scored twice in the opening 15 minutes, through Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho, it was not difficult for any of their players to enjoy themselves. Anderlecht, short of class, courage and confidence, were no opponents for a side slipping back into form.

No goals, no points and no hope for Anderlecht before the game. They began with nothing and ended with nothing.

Electric

It is also significant that Chelsea have recovered with Eidur Gudjohnsen in the team. He remains one of the unsung heroes of the Premiership, a player no-one on the outside can understand why he isn't chosen for every match.

The Icelandic star oozes class and makes up for that lack of electric pace with a brain so much quicker than most.

Think Peter Beardsley and Teddy Sheringham and you have a picture of Gudjohnsen, the 'Thinking Man's Footballer'.

He does things without fuss and is going to be vital if Chelsea reach their target of a Premiership and Champions League double.

Better opponents than this are waiting for them deeper into the season. Barcelona, Madrid, Lyon, Milan – but Chelsea proved here in Brussels that their swagger is back.

The swagger from boss and team that annoys so many, but wins so much.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH



FIRST CLASS: Crespo celebrates the opener



BLUE BLITZ!
Chelsea take an early two-goal lead against Anderlecht with superb finishes from Hernan Crespo (top) and Ricardo Carvalho



boss's faith as Blues get bullish in Belgium

JOSE SHOWS HIS MUSCLES IN BRUSSELS

JOSE Mourinho has proved he is a man worth listening to.

And his team did just that as they came out of the traps in Brussels to get the win that meant qualification for the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Chelsea blew Anderlecht away with two quick-fire goals.

Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho both scored inside the first 15 minutes to virtually settle this tie.

Mourinho had warned his side that they were becoming too cocky and taking results for granted after a slight wobble.

Their blistering start to the season had been knocked off track by defeats to Real Betis in the Champions League and Manchester United in the Premiership.

The Chelsea boss feared his side were becoming complacent because everything was coming too easy to them.

But on the back of their 3-0 demolition of Newcastle at the weekend, they showed last night they had heeded their manager's words.

Mourinho said he wanted his side to start strongly and not give Anderlecht a look-in, and they did just that.

Perfect

But not before a scare of their own as Mbo Mpenza was just inches away from gliding Christian Wilhemsson's cross past a stranded Petr Cech.

But straight from the goal-kick Frank Lampard dispossessed Anthony Vanden Borre on the left wing.

His cross was inch perfect for Crespo, who from six yards out eased the ball expertly past Anderlecht goalkeeper Silvio Proto.

It was Chelsea's first goal away from home this season in Europe.

Crespo's inclusion had been a surprise considering most people expected him to be left out for Didier Drogba.

The Ivory Coast striker was suspended at the weekend, which gave the Argentinian his chance in the side, and he took it with a goal against the Toon.

But Crespo has played second fiddle this year to Drogba, and dangerously fell out with Mourinho after Eidur Gudjohnsen was started before him against Betis when the African hitman was injured.

HEROES: Ricardo Carvalho is congratulated by fellow scorer Hernan Crespo and Joe Cole



By DANNY FULLBROOK
Anderlecht.....0
Chelsea2



Speculation has been rife that Crespo will be off-loaded in January, so this was a huge vote of confidence from the Portuguese boss.

And his decision reaped further dividends when Crespo helped set up Chelsea's second.

He flicked on a corner from Lampard into the path of Carvalho.

And the central defender volleyed the ball into the top right-hand corner for his second goal of his side's European campaign.

Chelsea's Champions League campaign had not exactly gone to plan this season.

A draw against Liverpool and defeat by Real Betis meant the Premiership champions might have needed to win

all that Frank Vercauteren's side could salvage from their campaign was the possibility of finishing third in the group, and therefore a place in the UEFA Cup.

But the Belgian side had

also suffered their own

Ro Keane-style mutiny

with dressing room unrest

and were in a state of disarray. And they proved that with the way they defended in the first 30 minutes.

There was still a worry for Chelsea though because despite reaching the semi-finals last year, for the second consecutive season, they had not won away from home in Europe for over a year.

Their last victory was in Russia against CSKA Moscow on November 2, 2004, and since then they had lost five and drawn one on their travels.

Gutted

Mourinho claimed there were a number of different reasons to excuse this poor run, but the bottom line is they have struggled away from Stamford Bridge.

Roman Abramovich has made it clear to his manager that Europe is his prime concern this season as he has been gutted by the way Chelsea lost out in the last two seasons.

But Mourinho had to go into the game last night

without his key defensive midfielder Claude Makelele.

The Frenchman injured his knee at the weekend, and last night was replaced by Michael Essien.

This meant Gudjohnsen started on the ground he visited over seven years to watch his father play when he was with Anderlecht.

But after their opening burst none of this really mattered.

The game was completely one-sided and Duff and Joe Cole nearly combined to score a third just before the break.

The Irishman's shot was

deflected into the path of Cole, and his looping effort was well held by Proto.

At the start of the second-half Duff went close with a low strike from a corner which was won by a galloping run and cross from Carvalho.

Chelsea were on the hunt for more goals as they could see their opponents were starting to wilt under their onslaught on a bitterly cold night.

In the 66th minute Anderlecht finally managed to get a shot on target as Cech was forced to dive low to his right to prevent Serhat Akin's effort from creeping into the net.

LuaLua's plea for 'no fear'

■ by PETER WHITE

PORTRUSHOMOUTH striker Luoma LuaLua last night caused a stir by telling manager Alain Perrin to adopt the "no fear" policy of former Fratton Park boss Harry Redknapp.

LuaLua admitted he was not enjoying his football this season and has called on Perrin to switch to a more attacking approach, starting with Saturday's home clash against champions Chelsea.

LuaLua, having just recovered from malaria, admits it is difficult to produce goals with just one man up front, the formation Perrin has plumped for in recent weeks.

Pompey have scored just three goals in seven home matches, since beating Southampton 4-1 in April.

Change

The Congo striker said: "Everyone had smiles on their faces and we need to get that back."

"I play football because I enjoy it. But I haven't really been enjoying myself this season. To score goals you need support, not just me or one other striker alone. "We need each other and, I think a different system, like 4-4-2, would be better."

"But it is up to the manager to change the formation. We've got to do what he tells us. I don't want to say anything wrong but Harry Redknapp didn't fear other sides."

Meanwhile, Pompey's Dutch keeper Sander Westerveld fears being left on the bench may hit his World Cup hopes.

Lee's no loaner – O'Leary

DAVID O'LEARY has told Lee Hendrie to forget about leaving Villa Park on loan.

Former England midfielder Hendrie is frustrated at his lack of opportunities this season – but boss O'Leary has made it clear he has to stay and fight for a first-team place.

Hendrie is being kept on the sidelines by the impressive form of on-loan Newcastle youngster James Milner.

O'Leary said: "James has got the shirt at the moment. I know Lee is frustrated and wants to play football but he has to wait back his place."

Business

"I would love to pick all the players but I can only pick 11 – and if they are doing the business then they stay in the side."

Hendrie, 27, has claimed that he would be happy to go out on loan, but O'Leary is not a fan of the move.

"He has never come to me and asked about going on loan, and we don't have the biggest squad," he said.

"He is due a testimonial at the end of the season, and he deserves it."

"That is the only thing we have spoken about in the last few weeks."

TEAMS

ANDERLECHT: Proto, Deschacht, Tihinen, Kompany, Zewlakow, Goor, Vanderhaeghe, Vanden Borre, Akin, Mpenza, Wilhemsson. Subs: Zitka, Juhasz, Ehret, Zetterberg, Iachchouck, Deman, Mitu.

CHELSEA: Cech, Del Horno, Terry, Ricardo Carvalho, Gallas, Duff, Essien, Lampard, Joe Cole, Crespo, Gudjohnsen. Subs: Cudicini, Carlton Cole, Geremi, Drogba, Diarra, Paulo Ferreira, Huth.

Ref: Stefano Farina (Italy).

